

RESTAURANT AND HOTEL INDUSTRIES

The restaurant and hotel industries consist of establishments that are open to the public or are operated by membership organizations that furnish meals or lodging.

The restaurant industry is composed of establishments that prepare and serve meals and beverages and includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, cafeterias, caterers, cocktail lounges, diners, fast food places, and takeout or delivery businesses.

Establishments in the hotel industry provide lodging to their customers or members and include, but are not limited to, hotels, motels, hostels, inns, rooming and boarding houses, fraternity or sorority residential houses, and residential clubs.

Who Is an Employee?

A worker is a common law employee when the employer has the right to direct and control the manner and means of accomplishing the work. Refer to *DE 231, Information Sheet: Employment*, for additional information.

Types of employees that are typical in the restaurant and hotel industries are:

- Chefs
- Dishwashers
- Bus Persons
- Maitre d's
- Cashiers
- Delivery Persons
- Valets
- Maids
- Laundry Persons
- Desk Clerks
- Bellhops
- Cooks
- Kitchen Helpers
- Waiters and Waitresses
- Hosts and Hostesses
- Managers
- Bartenders
- Clerical and Office Staff
- Switchboard Operators
- Repair and Maintenance Persons

Other services that may be performed by an employee under common law rules include, but are not limited to, those of bookkeepers, janitors, and entertainers.

What Are Wages?

Wages are payments made to an employee for services performed during employment. The payment may be made in cash or some medium other than cash. Types of payments typically considered to be wages are:

- Cash
- Meals and Beverages
- Lodging
- Tips

Employer-provided meals and lodging are subject to Unemployment Insurance (UI), State Disability Insurance* (SDI), and Employment Training Tax (ETT). Refer to *Information Sheet: Personal Income Tax Wages Reported on the Quarterly Wage and Withholding Report (DE 6), DE 231PIT*, to explain the reporting of wages.

Meals are subject to California Personal Income Tax (PIT) withholding unless furnished for the employer's convenience and on the employer's premises.

If more than half of the employees receive meals which are for the convenience of the employer, all meals furnished by the employer are considered furnished for the employer's convenience and are therefore not subject to PIT withholding. If fewer than half of the employees receive meals which are for the convenience of the employer, only those meals actually provided for the employer's convenience would be exempt from the PIT withholding requirement.

Lodging is also subject to PIT unless furnished on the employer's premises, for the employer's convenience, and as a condition of employment.

*Includes Paid Family Leave (PFL) beginning January 1, 2004.

What Are the Values of Meals and Lodging?

The taxable values of meals and lodging should not be less than the reasonable estimated values stipulated by the contract of employment or in a union agreement. If the cash values are not stipulated in the hiring or union agreement, the taxable values are established by regulation. The taxable value of lodging is 66 2/3 percent of the ordinary rental value to the public up to a maximum per month and not less than a minimum value per week. The taxable values of meals and lodging are listed below:

VALUE OF MEALS						VALUE OF LODGING	
YEAR	DAY	BR.	LU.	DI.	UNID	MAX PER MONTH	MIN PER WEEK
2000	7.75	1.70	2.35	3.70	2.70	\$742	\$24.05
2001	7.85	1.70	2.40	3.75	2.75	\$778	\$25.25
2002	8.20	1.80	2.50	3.90	2.85	\$826	\$26.80
2003	8.45	1.85	2.55	4.05	2.95	\$886	\$28.75
2004	8.55	1.85	2.60	4.10	3.00	\$921	\$29.85
NOTE: These values apply to non-maritime employees only. Lodging: 66 2/3 percent of ordinary rental value.							

The cash values of meals and lodging are subject to change each calendar year. This information is published in the Employment Development Department's (EDD) quarterly newsletter, the *California Employer*, which is mailed to all registered employers.

"Wages" Includes Tips

Employees who receive more than \$20 in tips in a calendar month must report all tips in one or more written statements to the employer on or before the tenth day of the month following the month in which they are received from the customers. Tips are taxable when the employee's statement is furnished to the employer. Banquet tips and tips controlled by the employer are treated as regular wages, and their taxability is not contingent upon employees reporting them to the employer.

Tips, that are included in a written statement furnished to the employer are wages and are subject to UI, ETT, SDI, and PIT. Tips should be combined with regular wages when reported to EDD. Refer to Information Sheet: Tips, DE 231T, for more detailed information on reporting tips.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, you may visit your local Employment Tax Office listed in the *California Employer's Guide, DE 44*. You may call us at 1-888-745-3886 or visit our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov under "Department Directory-Employment Tax."

Speech and hearing impaired persons can contact us by calling 1-800-547-9565.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary services available to individuals with disabilities.